

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

October 4, 1999

In Reply Refer To:  
9210 (FA-130) P

EMS Transmission 10/4/99  
Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2000-002

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: National Award, "Excellence in Ecosystem Management" DD: 10/31/99

Fire is a natural process which is fundamentally significant to almost every ecosystem benefitting people, property and natural resources. The National Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A) has sponsored an award to recognize Bureau individuals, groups or units that have substantially advanced prescribed burning as a tool critical to achieving healthy ecosystems. This award focuses on leadership in prescribed fire.

Enclosed you will find a document entitled "National Prescribed Fire and Fire Use Award for Excellence In Ecosystem Management." This document describes the award, nomination process, evaluation criteria and selection panel. The process allows for award(s) to an individual and/or a unit or group. The OF&A will provide a cash award as part of the individual award. The states need to have nominations to the Director, OF&A, by October 31 in order to qualify for consideration. The final selection will be made by mid-November.

The award will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference to an individual and or the unit supervisor.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Range at 208-387-5555.

Signed by:  
Gardner W. Ferry  
Acting Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

1 - Attachment

1 - National Prescribed Fire Award (3 pp.)

## **NATIONAL PRESCRIBED FIRE and FIRE USE AWARD**

### **AWARD NAME: "EXCELLENCE IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT"**

Fire is a significant ecological process in most ecosystems managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Its effect on ecological systems is dramatic and immediate. As a management tool, fire is used to maintain or restore ecosystems, to help achieve desired future conditions, and to protect life, property and ecosystem values that could be degraded by wildfire. The award categories are for units or groups and individuals that have substantially advanced the use of fire as a tool to improve the health of the land. These awards recognize those that have made significant contributions in support of prescribed fire and fire use.

**Unit/Group Award** will recognize accomplishments of an office or group; in leadership, management, planning, implementation, and monitoring within a prescribed fire or fire use program that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Individual Award** will recognize accomplishments of an individual for providing leadership in the areas of science, education, partnership, or other exceptional contribution to advancing prescribed fire or fire use that meets the evaluation criteria.

**Frequency:** The Unit/Group award and/or the Individual award may be presented annually. The award(s) will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference and will consist of a plaque and/or a monetary award.

**Nominations:** Each State Office may submit nominations to the Office of Fire and Aviation by October 31 of each year. Nominations may be from the State Office or Field Offices. Offices may submit more than one nomination. Each nomination should indicate whether it is for the "Unit/Group" or "Individual" award. Nomination(s) should include a one page narrative describing the overall prescribed fire or fire use project(s), plan(s), or accomplishment(s) and an explanation of how these actions contributed to protecting and improving natural resources and/or meeting land management objectives. Additional documentation not to exceed two pages should address each of the evaluation criteria discussed below.

**SELECTION:** The selection of the unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be made by an awards committee consisting of at least, a representative of the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, a Field Manager and a prescribed fire or fire use specialist. The selected unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be forwarded to the Director of the BLM by the Director of the Office of Fire and Aviation for National recognition.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA UNIT/GROUP AWARD:

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately, and are limited to two pages for the criteria.

1. Meeting land management and/or ecosystem objectives using prescribed fire and/or fire use.

**Objective:** Discuss how the project, plan, or program has helped to sustain and/or restore ecosystems(s) in support of land management objectives.

**Criteria:** Directly tie the project, plan or program to existing management plan objectives. Discuss multi resource benefit as appropriate. Describe and discuss excellence in all stages of planning, implementing, and monitoring.

2. Prescribed fire and/or fire use on a landscape scale.

**Objective:** Discuss how the project, plan, or program supports the use of prescribed fire and/or fire use on a landscape scale in support of ecosystem management.

**Criteria:** Discuss how the nomination promotes or restores native diversity of biological communities through the use of fire. Projects should be large scale and/or long term efforts to restore fire to a more natural role on a landscape basis. Provide a cost overview for the project.

## OR

- 2A. Unique Prescribed Fire or Fire Use Accomplishments

**Objective:** Discuss unique or unusual projects or programs such as work in unique ecosystems, urban/wildland interface hazard reduction, T&E or sensitive species habitat improvement, or project related to WSA, RNA, ACEC or other special management areas.

**Criteria:** Discuss why the project is unique or unusual. Describe the specific objectives of the project and the end results. Describe unusual technical difficulties and solutions. Provide a cost overview for the project.

3. Coordination and Cooperation

**Objective:** Discuss internal and external coordination and cooperation.

**Criteria:** Describe the internal interagency process. Describe any interagency efforts, include both federal and state agencies. Describe coordination and cooperative with private individuals and groups. Discuss any non agency assistance during the implementation of the project.

4. Public Education and Involvement

**Objective:** Describe any public education, or awareness effort conducted in connection with the nomination.

**Criteria:** Describe how public education and awareness efforts were used to gain public acceptance and support for the use of fire in support of ecosystem management. Discuss any unique public relations problems and the solutions developed. Describe any unique or unusual media involvement.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA INDIVIDUAL AWARD:**

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately, and are limited to two pages for the criteria.

1. Individual Effort

**Objective:** Describe significant individual effort..

**Criteria:** Describe unique or significant efforts related to a specific project, program, or plan. Or describe a significant ongoing individual effort related to the prescribed fire or fire use programs

2. Leadership

**Objective:** Describe significant leadership efforts in the prescribed fire and /or fire use program.

**Criteria:** Describe the internal leadership relating to the prescribed fire and/or fire use programs. Describe efforts with external individuals and groups that have supported the use of fire to maintain and restore ecosystems and meet land management objectives.

3. Technical Support

**Objective:** Describe significant technical accomplishments.

**Criteria:** Describe specific technical accomplishments related to project planning, implementation, training, monitoring, public participation, public education. Tie the above accomplishments to specific projects or show a significant contribution to the overall program.